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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /114 W
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R 271150Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6260

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13856

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US
SUBJ: CHARUNPHAN ON THAI/U.S. RELATIONS

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPAHN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA
HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 26. FOLLOWING IS
AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON
THAI/U.S. RELATIONS.

REPORTER: HAS THE MINISTRY BEEN INFORMED BY THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT YET TO WHAT EXTENT AID GIVEN US
WILL BE CUT DOWN IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR?

CHARUNPHAN: I DON'T THINK WE WILL SUFFER ANY
REPERCUSSIONS.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE WILL BE NO CUT
TO AID GIVEN US?

CHARUNPHAN: MY VIEW IS THAT NOW THAT THE PRESIDENT
AND SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAVE TAKEN OVER AND
STARTED WORK, ALIGNMENT OF FOREIGN POLICY WILL HAVE BEEN
DISCUSSED ALREADY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE UNITED STATES
HAS SAID THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE. THEREFORE, ONCE
THE INTERNAL SITUATION, IN THE UNITED STATES ITSELF, BECOMES
SMOOTHER POLITICALLY, SINCE THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE
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IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREIGN POLICY, THE SITUATION

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SHOULD NOT DETERIORATE. THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANYTHING ADVERSE MAKING IT NECESSARY TO REDUCE AID, UNLESS A POLICY OF THRIFT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED OR SHOULD THERE BE AN ECONOMIC CRISIS. ALL THESE ARE LINKED TOGETHER.

REPORTER: WHAT IS YOUR REACTION IN REGARD TO PRESIDENT FORD AND HIS FIRST MONTH IN THE PRESIDENCY? WHAT IS YOUR VIEW?

CHARUNPHAN: I FEEL CERTAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL MOST PROBABLY HAVE TO BE BUSY CONCENTRATING ON INTERNAL PROBLEMS FIRST, SUCH AS THE SELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED ALREADY. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL MOST PROBABLY BE BUSY CONCENTRATING MAINLY ON INTERNAL PROBLEMS DURING THE FIRST MONTH. IN REGARD TO PROBLEMS OUTSIDE, SINCE THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED, WORK PERFORMED SHOULD THEREFORE BE CARRIED ALONG THE WAY WHICH MR. KISSINGER WAS FOLLOWING.

REPORTER: HAS OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON SENT ANY REPORTS ON THIS MATTER YET?

CHARUNPPIN: REPORTS HE HAS SENT CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS I AM INFORMING YOU, THAT ALIGNMENT OF POLICY HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED FOR THAILAND. THEY ARE SIMILAR TO STATEMENTS MADE BY MR. KINTNER, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HERE, WHICH I HAVE INFORMED YOU OF BEFORE.

REPORTER: THERE IS A NEWS REPORT WHICH STATES THAT THE NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT MIGHT VISIT JAPAN TOWARDS THE END OF THIS YEAR. HAS OUR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HEARD YET WHETHER HE WILL COME AND STOP OVER HERE IN THAILAND ALSO?

CHARUNPHAN: THAT IS A NEWS REPORT ONLY. NO INFOR-
MATION AT ALL HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS YET.
KINTNER

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